(ii) interim storage for a period of 30-50 years, and

(iii) final disposal in deep underground geological repository in the long term.

The Indian programme in the area of radioactive waste management for long-lived waste is fully geared up to meet the country's needs.

**Titanium deposit left by Tsunami on Tamil Nadu beaches**

1701. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the December 26 Tsunami has left behind millions of tonnes of titanium ore on the beaches of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether it is also a fact that known global resources of the ore are in the range of 285 million tonnes and titanium is among the most sought after metals in the world; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government propose to use the newly added titanium on the because of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Along the coastal sretches of Tamil Nadu, the deposition of heavy minerals due to tsunami is patchy, inconsistent and with a maximum thickness of 30-40 cm. Among the existing deposits, Ilmenite and Rutile are titanium bearing minerals. In some instances the tsunami waves have destroyed the existing concentrations in dunes and deposited them inland, thereby relocating the existing deposits. Thus there is no substantial enhancement of heavy mineral deposits in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Yes, Sir. Titanium is the metal of future and India has an abundant resource of titanium minerals. The resources of titanium ore (ilmenite) in India alone is 374 million tonnes as on 1.1.2004 based on the studies by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMD).

(c) Does not arise.